

Survey No. HA-1849
Building 629
Aberdeen Proving Ground
Harford County, Maryland

Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data

Geographic Organization: Piedmont
Chronological/Development Period: A.D. 1930-Present
Historic Period Theme: Military

Resource Type:

Category: Building
Historic Environment: Military Installation
Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Heating Plant Building
Known Design Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. HA-1849

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Building 629 (Preferred)

and/or common Heating Plant Building

2. Location

street & number Mulberry Point, Aberdeen Proving Ground ☒ not for publication

city, town Aberdeen ☒ vicinity of congressional district 2

state Maryland county Harford

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Dept. of the Army, Aberdeen Proving Ground

street & number Real Estate Section, Directorate of Public Works telephone no.: (410) 278-7688

city, town Aberdeen Proving Ground state and zip code 21005-5001

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Real Estate Section, DPW liber

street & number folio

city, town Aberdeen Proving Ground state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

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Condition

☐ excellent

☐ good

☐ fair

☒ deteriorated

☐ ruins

☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered

☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site

☐ moved

date of move

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

(See Continuation Sheet)

8. Significance

Survey No. HA-1849

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1943 **Builder/Architect** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒A ☐B ☒C ☐D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐A ☐B ☐C ☐D ☐E ☐F ☐G

Level of Significance: ☐national ☐state ☒local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

(See Continuation Sheet)

9. Major Bibliographical References

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(See Continuation Sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property — >.5 acre —

Quadrangle name Spesutie, MDQuadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

Zone	Easting							Northing	

B

Zone	Easting							Northing	

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

(See Continuation Sheet)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state Maryland code county Harford code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title W. Patrick Giglio/Architectural Historianorganization R. Christopher Goodwin & Assoc., Inc. date April 1994street & number 337 E. Third Street telephone (301) 694-0428city or town Frederick state MD

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
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MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600

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Building 629
Aberdeen Proving Ground
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7. DESCRIPTION

Building 629, was constructed in 1943 as a heating plant in the Mulberry Point area at Aberdeen Proving Ground. The building is one story, with a full basement. The structure is constructed of concrete block and rests on a poured concrete foundation. Building 629 terminates in a low, pitched gable roof clad with asphalt shingles. A large, 55-foot high detached brick chimney is located south of the building and is connected to the main building by a horizontal metal flue. Three windows were aligned along the west and east elevations of Building 629; windows on the east elevation have been infilled with concrete block, while the east elevation windows have been boarded. The building is accessed by a wooden door located on the north elevation.

The interior of the heating plant adopts an open plan that contains metal tanks and boiler equipment. The building is entered along the bermed upper level, with metal stairs leading to the lower level. Originally, the building housed a pair of coal-fired boilers, which supplied steam heat via underground pipes to neighboring buildings. The two boilers were equipped with automated stokers, which regulated the supply of coal to the furnaces. A large blower system was attached to the boilers that forced heated air through steam pipes to the adjoining buildings. Remnants of the coal hoppers are extant on the west elevation. The coal hoppers were filled from grade, which allowed easy truck access. In 1956, the boilers were converted from coal to oil (Real Property Records, APG). The building is currently in disrepair. The boilers, which are intact, are no longer operative.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE COUNT: 1

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

Summary

Building 629 functioned as a minor support structure to testing activities at Mulberry Point during World War II. The building is not associated directly with the primary activity of weapons testing at APG (Criterion A) or with a significant personage (Criterion B). Building 629 is a utilitarian building that lacks architectural and/or engineering significance for its design, construction, or machinery (Criterion C). The building is not associated with the significant theme of weapons testing and was not identified as possessing those qualities of significance necessary for individual listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

In addition, the building was evaluated within the context of a potential historic district of weapons testing facilities at Mulberry Point. Building 629 is separated from the main concentration of buildings at Mulberry Point by Anti-Aircraft Loop Road. This road forms an identifiable boundary between large weapons testing facilities and small minor support buildings and munitions storage facilities. The minor support buildings do not retain their overall integrity. Therefore, Building 629 would not be a contributing element in any historic district for Mulberry Point.

History

Building 629 was constructed as a heating plant in 1943 during World War II expansion of Aberdeen Proving Ground. The heating plant is located on Mulberry Point, southeast of APG's Main Front. Mulberry Point evolved as a shipping terminal and secondary testing range to support APG's testing mission during World War II.

Mulberry Point served as a shipping and receiving area and a minor testing area during World War I. Map evidence indicates that World War I development comprised a large concentration of railroad lines, a plate range, and a water range. Before World War II, Mulberry Point was an isolated section of the installation and remained relatively undeveloped. Few buildings are extant in this area from the World War I or inter-war periods (Real Property Records, APG).

During World War II, Mulberry Point was expanded to become a secondary testing range to the Main Front. Three types of testing ranges operated at Mulberry Point: a light armor range, a high velocity range, and a water range. Construction activity focused on the erection of munitions bunkers, safety shelters, storage shelters, and service shops to support testing missions at the ranges. The buildings were utilitarian in design and constructed of brick, concrete, or sheet metal, as required by their function and safety requirements. One of the buildings added to the area was Building 629, a heating plant. It was located at the southern end of the complex of weapons testing facilities among other utilitarian support structures.

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

Goodwin, R. Christopher, Katherine Grandine, Thomas W. Davis, Christopher R. Polglase, Kathryn M. Kuranda, Leo P. Hirrel, Tom Dod, Timothy Silva, S. Justine Woodard, Bethany M. Usher

1993 *Aberdeen Proving Ground Cultural Resource Management Plan*. Prepared by R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc., for Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, Baltimore, Md. Draft Report.

Goodwin, R. Christopher, Kathryn M. Kuranda, W. Patrick Giglio, Katherine Grandine

1994 *Architectural Survey and Assessment of Five Buildings at Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG), Aberdeen, Maryland*. Prepared for Department of the Navy, Atlantic Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command.

Grandine, Katherine, Irene Jackson Henry, and William R. Henry Jr.

1982 *DARCOM Historic Building Inventory: Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland*. Prepared by the National Park Service Historic American Buildings Survey.

ARCHIVAL SOURCES

Aberdeen Proving Ground

Directorate of Public Works. Map collections, real property records, architectural drawing archives.

Library of Congress

Prints and Photographs Division. Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record.

National Archives

Records of the Office of Chief of Engineers. RG 77, Completion Reports, Aberdeen Proving Ground and Edgewood Arsenal, 1917-1943.

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Section 9.2

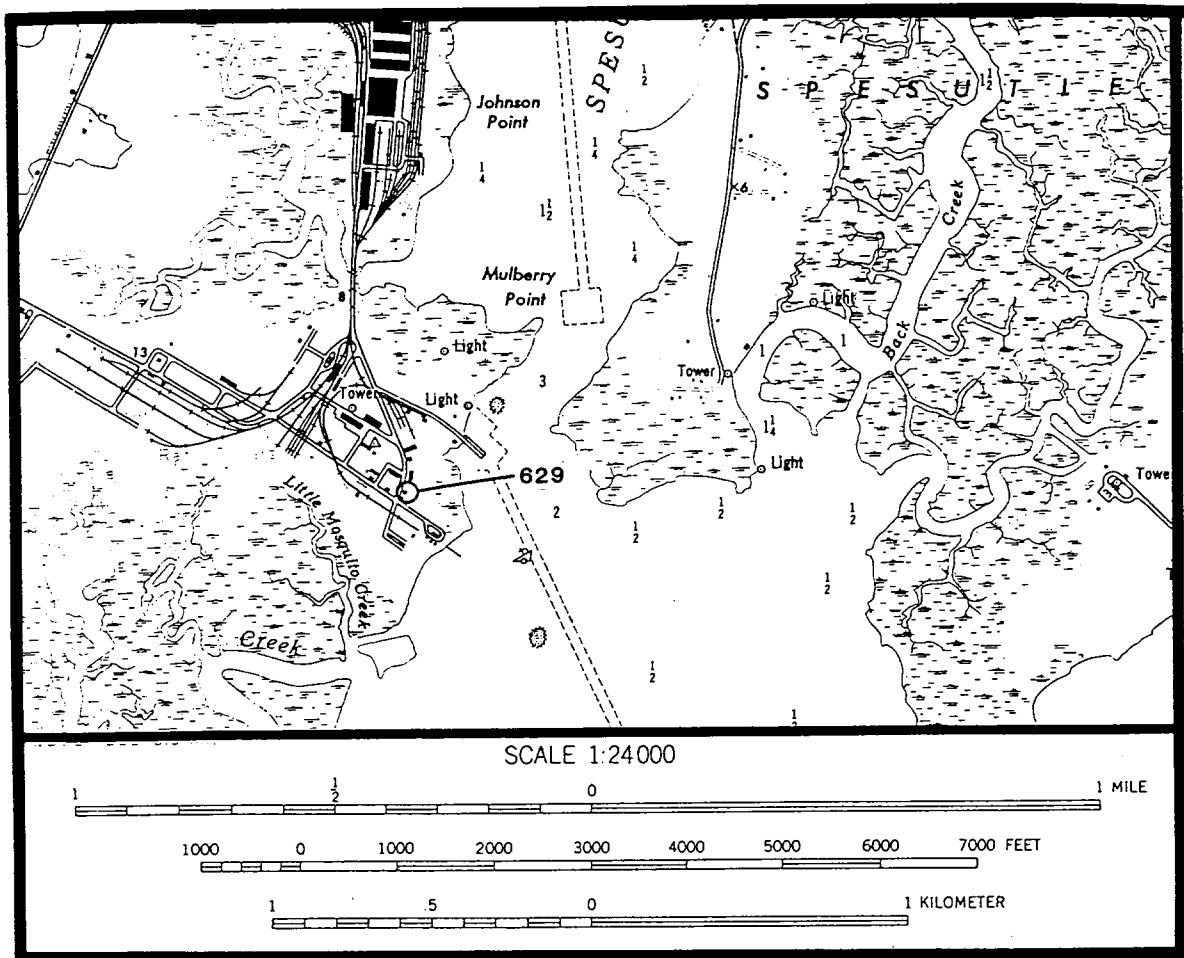
Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General. RG 92, Construction Division, Completion Reports, Aberdeen Proving Ground and Edgewood Arsenal, 1917-1940.

Records of the Chief of Ordnance. RG 156, Histories of Ordnance Installations, 1940-1945 (Entry 646).

Records of the Chief of Ordnance. RG 156, Ordnance Proving Grounds, 1940-1945 (Entry 646A).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Building 629 is located south of Anti-Aircraft Loop Road in the Mulberry Point area of Aberdeen Proving Ground. The boundaries of the property are the footprint of the building and is the original placement of the structure when it was constructed in 1943.



HA-1849
 Building 629
 Aberdeen Area, Aberdeen Proving Ground
 Harford County
 Spesutie Quadrangle



HA-1849

Building 629

Aberdeen Proving Ground

Harford County, Maryland

Red Macmillan

10/93

Directorate of Safety, Health and Environment, RPG

View facing east

1 of 2



HA-1849

Building 629

Aberdeen Proving Ground

Harford County, Maryland

Reed Macmillan

10/93

Directorate of Safety, Health and Environment, APG

View facing South

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